



News Release

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IDWR DAM SAFETY INSPECTORS CLOSELY MONITORING
SAINT JOHN DAM LEAK PROBLEM IN ONEIDA COUNTY

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State safety of dams inspector engineers are closely monitoring a leak that has developed in Saint John Dam, a 39-foot-high earthen dam on Davis Creek in Oneida County about four miles northwest of Malad City, the Idaho Department of Water Resources said today.

IDWR officials say the stability of the embankment has not yet been determined. . However, as a precaution, the Oneida County Sheriff's Department has notified landowners downstream from the structure about the problem.

Water is being released from the reservoir's outlet pipe at a rate of 30 cubic feet per second (19.3 million gallons a day), which should lower the water level in the 50-acre reservoir about 1-2 feet per day. The reservoir can hold 630 acre feet of water and was within 3 inches of being full.

The leak developed over the weekend at the toe of the dam. The leak is presently passing an estimated 1 cubic foot per second (448 gallons per minute) of water through the structure. The dam was built in 1917 and was last inspected by IDWR in 2001.

The dam is owned by the Malad Valley Irrigation District and stores water for irrigation. Irrigation District officials first spotted the problem on Friday when they detected a wet spot on the toe of the dam. They notified IDWR about the situation. A safety of dams inspector was dispatched to the scene and has been monitoring the situation ever since.

A similar problem occurred with the dam in the early 1980s. The reservoir was drawn down so that repairs could be made. IDWR has inspected the structure on a regular basis since then and there have not been any problems since then.

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